

[6] This Court has long recognized that Const 1963, art 8, § 5 and the analogous provisions of our previous *87 constitutions limit the Legislature's power.¹¹ "[T]he Legislature may not interfere with the management and control of" universities. *Regents, supra*, 395 Mich. at 65, 235 N.W.2d 1. The constitution grants the governing boards authority over "the absolute management of the University, and the exclusive control of all funds received for its use." *Bd. of Agriculture, supra*, 226 Mich. at 424, 197 N.W. 160. This Court has "jealously guarded" these powers from legislative interference. *Bd. of Control of Eastern Michigan Univ. v. Labor Mediation Bd.*, 384 Mich. 561, 565, 184 N.W.2d 921 (1971).

[7] This Court has not, however, held that universities are exempt from all regulation. In *Regents of the Univ. of Michigan v. Employment Relations Comm.*, 389 Mich. 96, 108, 204 N.W.2d 218 (1973), we quoted *Branum v. Bd. of Regents of the Univ. of Michigan*, 5 Mich.App. 134, 138-139, 145 N.W.2d 860 (1966):

It is the opinion of this Court that the legislature can validly exercise its police power for the welfare of the people of this State, and a constitutional corporation such as the board of regents of the University of Michigan can lawfully be affected thereby. The University of Michigan is an independent branch of the government of the State of Michigan, but it is not an island. Within the confines of the operation and the allocation of funds of the University, it is supreme. Without those confines, however, there is no reason to allow the regents to use their independence to thwart the clearly established public policy of the people of Michigan.